***Zonal* Railway Committees**

246. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Zonaj Railway Committees in the country as on date alongwith the names and the number of members of these Committees;

(b) what is the number of meetings of these Committees held during the last three years; and

(c) what are the names of the persons to whom free railway passes were issued during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Arms import by Nepal

247. SHRI KAPIL VERMA;

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a statement made by a Nepal Government spokesman asserting Nepal's right to import arms from whichever country it wanted; if so, what is Government's reaction in the context of 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship;

(b) whether Nepal has made any proposal for changes in the 1950 Treaty; if so, what are the details thereof; and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what steps are being taken to prevent harassment of traders of Indian origin settled in Nepal Terai especially in border areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Government would be willing to discuss all bilateral issues with Nepal within the framework and the spirit of the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship.

(b) No formal proposal for review of the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship has been received.

(c) The Government are keeping a close watch on the situation and are taking all necessary steps to safeguard the interests of Indian nationals resident in Nepal.

Schools covered under 'Operation Blackboard'

248. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the Statewise break-up of the 40,000 primary schools covered under the first phase of Operation Blackboard; and

(b) what are the additional facilities likely to be provided under the Scheme at these schools and what is the total amount spent so far for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Under the first phase of the Scheme of Operation Blackboard (1987-88) in all 113417 primary schools were covered. The Statewise details are given in Statement (See below).

(b) The Scheme of Operation Blackboard envisages bringing about substantial improvement in facilities in all primary shools by provision of a 2 room building, an additional teacher in single teacher schools, essential teaching learning material such as toys, games equipment, science kits, library books, musical instruments.

Blackboards and furniture for students and teachers etc. Central Assistance is released for provision of the additional teachers and the teach.

ing learning material. In 1987-88, an amount of Rs. 110.61 crores was released under the scheme and in 1988-89 Rs. 135.73 crores.

Statement

State-wise primary schools covered under O.B. Scheme during 1987-88

SI. No.	States/UTs	No. of primary SffoKSi Blackboard 1987-88
1		
1	Andhra Pradesh	6352
2	Assam .	7014 13270
3	Bihar	4769
4	Gujarat .	959
5	Haryana .	
6	Himachal Pradesh	1984
7	Jammu & Kashmir	1320
8	Karnataka	2473
9	Kerala .	1467
10	Madhya Pradesh	13926
11	Maharashtra .	541
12	Manipur	
13	Meghalaya	766
14	Nagaland.	7377
15	Orissa	4737
16	Punjab .	12187
17	Rajasthan	509
18	Sikkim .	5995
19	Tamil Nadu .	421
20	Tripura .	18924
21	UttarPradesh .	
22	Arunachal Pradesh	353
23	Dadra & Nagar Hav :	17

1	2	3
24	Delhi .	668
25	Goa	169
26	Lakshadweep .	19
27	Mizoram	166
28	West Bengal .	
29	Pondicherry	
30	Chandigarh	
31	Daman & Diu. Au. INDIA	
		113417

Misuse of free/complimentary passes issued to freedom fighters

249. DJB. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) What is the number of free/ complimentary passes issued so far to the freedom fighters and the annual financial commitment involved therein; and

(b) whether Government have received any complaints regarding misuse of these passes, if so, what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF-THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) A total of 78,107 complimentary card passes each valid for a period of 1 year have been issued to the freedom fighters so far. Ministry of Home Affairs are reimbursing the cost of these passes and the total financial implications are estimated to be of the order of Rs. 50 crores for the last 2 years during which the seheme was in vogue.

(b) Yes, Sir. There have been a few caseg of irregularities. These were generally condoned' keeping in view the spirit behind the issue of such passes.

Development of roads with loan fr«m Asian Development Bank

250. DR YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of SURFAC1 TRANSPORT be pleased to state;

(a) what is the total amount sanetion loan by the Asian Development Bank for the development of roads in our country;

(b) in what manner it ij being utilised; and what is the share of various States; and

(c) what is the criteria adopted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) One hundred ninety eight Million US Dollars (US $ 198,000,000).

(b) The loan assistance is meant for improvement of both National Highways and State road projects besides procurement or equipment and road sector studies. The statewise